

## South King County Projects Update

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## South King County Traffic Closures This Week

### Interstate 5

- Two left lanes of southbound I-5 between S. 320<sup>th</sup> and Highway 161 will close Tuesday night (Oct. 18) for bridge work. The first lane will close at 8 p.m., the second at 10 p.m. One southbound lane will reopen by 5 a.m., the other by 7 a.m.
- The left lane of southbound I-5 between Military Road and S. 320<sup>th</sup> will close daily Monday through Friday (Oct. 17-21) from 6 a.m. to 1 p.m. for median work.
- Expect weekday shoulder closures on I-5 from S. 320<sup>th</sup> to the Pierce County line for electrical work.

### Highway 18

- On Wednesday night (Oct. 19), expect the following closures:
  - At 8 p.m. one eastbound lane of SR 18 between I-5 and Weyerhaeuser Way will close.
  - At 9 p.m. crews will close the northbound I-5 exit to westbound SR 18 and the eastbound SR 18 exit to southbound I-5.
  - At 11 p.m. a second eastbound lane of SR 18 between I-5 and Weyerhaeuser Way will close.
  - All lanes and ramps will reopen by 5 a.m. Thursday.
- On Thursday night (Oct. 20), expect the following closures:
  - At 8 p.m. one westbound lane of SR 18 between I-5 and SR 99 will close.
  - At 9 p.m. crews will close the southbound I-5 exit to eastbound SR 18 and the eastbound SR 18 exit to northbound I-5.
  - At 11 p.m. a second westbound lane of SR 18 between I-5 and SR 99 will close.
  - All lanes and ramps will reopen by 5 a.m. Friday.
- Expect weekday shoulder closures on Highway 18 between Highway 167 and Weyerhaeuser Way for electrical and signing work.

### Highway 161

- Expect weekday shoulder closures on Highway 161 between S. 360<sup>th</sup> and Milton Way while crews work to widen the highway.

## Bumps Gone on Northbound I-5 Bridge Over Military Road

Drivers are now enjoying a smooth ride in all lanes on the northbound I-5 bridge over Military Road. Crews completed paving the far right lane last Thursday night (Oct. 13). We'd expected to complete this work a few weeks ago, but rain caused delays.

Crews are preparing the end of the new S. 317<sup>th</sup> bridge in the median to connect to the new HOV ramps. We're also excavating for a retaining wall at the north end of the project (read about this wall in our [August 30 update](#)). Visit the [I-5 – S. 317<sup>th</sup> Web page](#) for more project information and construction photos.

## Crews to Begin Removing I-5 Bridge Barriers This Week

This week, crews will begin removing the barrier on the median side of the I-5 northbound and southbound bridges over Highway 18 and S. 336<sup>th</sup> Street (see traffic closures above). We need to remove the barrier so we can widen the bridges and build HOV lanes.

We had expected to begin paving the new HOV lanes by the middle of October. Unfortunately, the recent rains have turned the material in the median into a muddy mess that crews were unable to compact. We need to compact the material before we pave. Therefore, crews are currently digging out the muddy material and placing crushed rock as a base for the asphalt and concrete pavement. Visit the [I-5 HOV Widening Web site](#) for more project information.

## [Highway 18 Truck Climbing Lane](#) Open to Traffic

On Wednesday, Oct. 12 at 10:45 a.m., crews opened the new two-mile long westbound truck-climbing lane on Highway 18 between Highway 167 and Weyerhaeuser Way. Passenger vehicles are now able to avoid trucks by using the two left lanes. Large commercial trucks are prohibited in the left lane of Highway 18 between Highway 167 and Weyerhaeuser Way.

The new lane will also reduce the risk of collisions. Between 1999 and 2005, there were more than 250 collisions on this stretch of road, most of which involved vehicles trying to pull around slow-moving trucks. Drivers should continue to watch for construction vehicles and work crews in the area as we complete minor wrap-up work.

## Building Retaining Walls on the [Highway 161 Widening Project](#)

Crews are building a retaining wall along the west side of Highway 161 between 19<sup>th</sup> Way S. and S. 370<sup>th</sup> Street. On this stretch of road the southbound lanes are considerably higher than the adjacent land next to the roadway. There's currently a guardrail to protect vehicles from going into this area, but crews have built a retaining wall beyond the guardrail to shore up the soil and provide an area to widen the highway.

## Highway Advisory Radio Updates

Tune your radio to **AM 1520** to hear a new project update each week on I-5 in Federal Way. Questions or comments? E-mail Laura Johnson at [JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov).

## About This E-mail

Please forward this e-mail to others who might be interested. To join our list, send an e-mail to [lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:lyris@lists.wsdot.wa.gov) with "subscribe fedway-i5-317th-l" in the body of the e-mail. If you have any questions, contact Laura Johnson at [JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov](mailto:JohnsoL@wsdot.wa.gov).